

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1 and 3-13 are pending. Claims 1 and 3-13 have been rejected as anticipated by Pinkerton, U.S. Patent No. 5,302,874. Claims 7 and 13 have been rejected as being obvious over Pinkerton in view of Koenig, U.S. Patent No. 6,250,577. The Examiner has objected to claims 6 and 12 due to a misspelling. Claims 1, 6, 8, and 12 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are currently in condition for allowance.

II. Rejections to Claims 1 and 3-13

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3-13 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pinkerton. As noted in the previous response, Pinkerton discloses a “housing with a cylindrical body 12 and annular end walls 14 of non-magnetic material such as aluminum.” See, col. 8, lns. 27-29. Pinkerton’s “housing” is not a binding band exerting a force on a magnet. Rather, it is merely a container disposed about the assembly in order to enclose it.

To further clarify the invention, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite that the annular binding band is engaged with and exerting a preloading force on the annular magnet. As noted above, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest such a binding band. The housing 12 of Pinkerton neither engages the magnets nor exerts a force on them. Claims 3-7 and 9-13 depend from allowable claims 1 and 8 respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections from all claims.

III. Objections

Claims 6 and 12 have been amended to correct the misspelling.

IV. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to Deposit Account 50-0548.

Respectfully submitted,



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